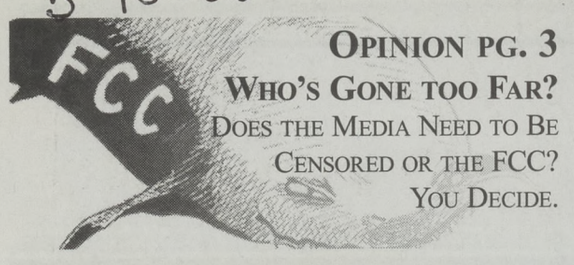
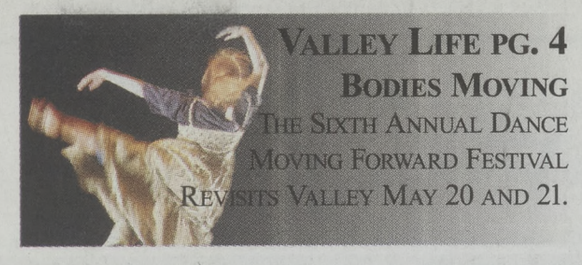
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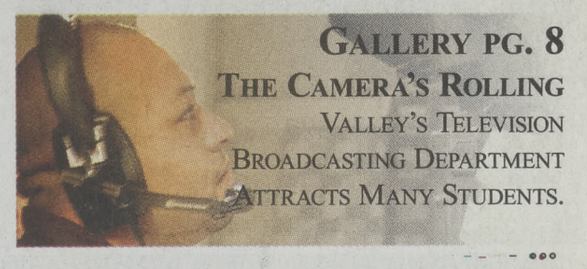
OPINION PG. 3
WHO'S GONE TOO FAR?
DOES THE MEDIA NEED TO BE CENSORED OR THE FCC? YOU DECIDE.



VALLEY LIFE PG. 4
BODIES MOVING
THE SIXTH ANNUAL DANCE MOVING FORWARD FESTIVAL REVISITS VALLEY MAY 20 AND 21.



SPORTS PG. 6
FRESHMAN EXCELS
OUTFIELDER DOES WHAT IS NECCESSARY TO SUCCEED ON THE FIELD.



GALLERY PG. 8
THE CAMERA'S ROLLING
VALLEY'S TELEVISION BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT ATTRACTS MANY STUDENTS.

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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 63, ISSUE NO. 9 | MAY 18, 2005 | IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

Valley Power Couple

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Every Thursday night Marni and Ford Roosevelt can be found dipping and shuffling at Valley Cities Jewish Community Center's dance program.

"It's a way for us to unwind and connect," said Ford, grandson of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. Distinguished in appearance, like his grandfather, he is a perfect contrast to his feisty wife, Marni whose temperament echo's that of Eleanor.

The couple, approaching their 27th anniversary in June, has plenty to unwind over.

As the director for special projects at Valley College's Child Development Center, 53-year-old Marni is in charge of multiple assignments, including her pet project, the successful Infant and Toddle Teacher Institute. The ITTI's latest event attracted more than 250 people interested in the child development field.

Ford, the 56-year-old president and CEO of Project Grad LA, is responsible for sending more than 300 San Fernando High School students to college on scholarship. Grad LA not only works with high school students, but the organization starts working with students in grade school. Ford has now set his focus on building Grad LA's relationship with Valley.

"Our careers have crossed paths," said Ford excitedly. "After work conversations have a lot to do with education."

see *Roosevelt* page 2



DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR

HONORING WHITE - Valley College President Tyree Wieder presents music legend Maurice White with the First Annual Cultural Achievement Award of Excellence.

Maurice White Honored

BY TAMMY FUNICELLO
STAFF WRITER

"Shining Star" Maurice White, founder of 1970s funk giants Earth, Wind and Fire, came into view at Monarch Hall on Monday where he was celebrated as the first recipient of the Cultural Achievement Award of Excellence.

"I want to thank you for your support throughout these years," said the lead vocalist. "The group and I have been around for 30 years and I can't believe that we're still ticking."

Apart from encouraging the audience to "stay in tune with your heart," White described the inspirations for some of his most famous songs. "Fantasy," for instance, took three months to write and was finally finished after he saw the film, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." Of the party anthem, "September," White cryptically noted that he wrote it while in a Washington, D.C. hotel room high above a riot.

The event, organized by the Black Student Union, drew a crowd of about 100 jubilant audience members who clapped and sang as the band's music played in the background. BSU Advisor Dan Mitchell said it was important to honor such a significant African American figure.

"White is Earth Wind and Fire," said Mitchell. "We are honoring him because his music has transcended so many cultures and reached so many people. He has such a positive impact on everyone."

White's achievements in the music industry include six Grammy's, four American Music Awards and 50 gold and platinum albums. His band's hits include "Fantasy," "Can't Hide Love," "September" and "That's the Way of the World," among many others.

Valley College President Tyree Wieder was enthusiastic when speaking of the music legend, proclaiming May 16 "Maurice White Day."

"I spent many hours listening and dancing to Earth, Wind and Fire," said Wieder. "His mission is definitely well accomplished."

There were several speakers at the event, all of who

see *White* page 5

ASU Election Committee Members Quit

■ Election Committee reacts to Administrator's interference in decision to disqualify candidates.

BY TAMMY FUNICELLO
STAFF WRITER

Two members of ASU's Election Committee resigned Tuesday, after ASU Adviser and Student Services Co-Vice President Sherri Rodriguez tried to overturn the committee's previous decision to disqualify the first election's top two vote-getters. Election Committee Chair Ron Cabrera disagrees with the legality of the administration's interference with the student election, saying that Rodriguez is in violation of the Election Code.

"I disagreed with [the Election Committee's] decision, [but] at the same time I'm concerned about the adviser overruling it," said Chief Justice Igor Kagan. "While I don't agree with the [Committee's] decision, it was in the rules. There was nothing illegal about it."

The Election Committee unanimously appointed Adam Park as the ASU president last week after disqualifying the top two vote-getters in the April 19 and 20 election, Theresa Chavez and Nelli Martirosyan, for campaign violations. Martirosyan (who received 322 votes) and Chavez (who received 171), have said they don't want a second election. Last week, the Election Committee found both Martirosyan and Chavez guilty of violating the election code. Martirosyan was found guilty of having a campaign helper who into crossing the no-campaigning zone. There is no campaigning within 50 feet of the voting booths. Chavez was found guilty of having an excessive number of campaign posters. The committee considered both disqualifiable offenses.

Rodriguez fears that voters were swayed in the first election, saying that she hopes that having a second election, candidates will pay more attention to the rules so that votes are not illegally obtained.

"I talked to other schools and no one had ever been disqualified for violations like that," said Rodriguez. "The next best thing to do is have a new election in an environment where no one can be swayed."

The committee, however, has no interest in a second election.

"Whether the violations affected the votes is not a concern," said Cabrera, who is attempting to remove himself as Committee chair. "The fact that there were violations disappoints me."

ASU president Jessie Salas withdrew from the committee along with Jason Henderson, commissioner of athletics, calling it a "big mess."

"The Election Committee already made a decision, it's not right to overturn it," said Chavez. "Rules were broken, people were disqualified; that's

see *ASU* page 2

Tight Race Causes Close Call



SEVAN GHAZARYAN/ VALLEY STAR

VALLEYRAIGOSA- Valley resident Deborah Pierce gives Antonio Villaraigosa not only a hug but also words of encouragement at an appearance on Ventura Boulevard and Laurel Canyon Tuesday.

BY MAGGIE OWNBEY
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Mayor James Hahn closed in on challenger Antonio Villaraigosa in the race for Los Angeles Mayor late Tuesday night with 44 percent of the counted votes to Villaraigosa's 56 percent.

Villaraigosa held a substantial lead over Hahn in the weeks leading up to the election. The numbers at press time showed Villaraigosa with 61,435 votes and Hahn with 58,045 votes, according to a Los Angeles Times poll. Pollsters will count late into the night before they can determine if Hahn can overcome Villaraigosa's more than 3,000-vote lead.

"I think that Villaraigosa is a better candidate," said sophomore Ashar Ali. "I think he might represent Los Angeles better just because he is a minority."

A Villaraigosa victory would make him the first Latino to become mayor of Los Angeles since Cristobal Aguilar's win 133 years ago. Hahn and Villaraigosa were the top finishers in the 2001 race, with Villaraigosa winning the general election but Hahn garnering enough votes to force the runoff that he eventually won.

Despite abysmally low approval ratings and persistent corruption charges, incumbent James K. Hahn reduced Villaraigosa's14-point lead down to a 2 percent margin.

Hahn, not known for a dynamic persona, seemed to come to life late in the campaign as Villaraigosa opened up a huge lead in the polls. Hahn spent millions on ads painting his opponent as soft on crime and untrustworthy, apparently to a significant effect.

Charges of corruption surrounded this year's race, as Hahn is being investigated for issuing contracts in exchange for campaign contributions (the city having recently settled a lawsuit against a public relations firm with close ties to Hahn, which admitted over billing Los

see *Election* page 5

Valley College Swimmers Make Splash at State Championship

BY ZABIE MANSOORY
SPORTS EDITOR

Three Valley College swimmers earned "All-American" status, competing in last week's State Championship in Pleasant Hills.

"They all made an outstanding accomplishment," said Assistant Coach William Krauss. "This is a real big win for us and them."

Megan Winchell, Valentine Alberti and Matt Alberti qualified for the state championship, showing just how impressive the Monarch presence can be after all three walked away with medals.

Winchell earned two medals for the events she competed in, including a third place win with a time of 31.28 seconds in the 50-meter breaststroke and eighth in the 100-meter breaststroke.

"I am very happy with the outcome of this season," said Winchell. "I have to thank my coaches for giving me the workouts they did to get me here."

Valentine walked away with a medal, earning eighth place in the 100-meter freestyle with a time of 55.21. She also took eleventh in the 50- and 200-meter freestyles.

"I am very excited and would pat myself on the back for this accomplishment," said Valentine. "But without my coaches, I wouldn't be anywhere near the state championship."

Matt placed seventh in the 400 individual medley with a time of 4.13 seconds and tenth in the 200 individual medley and 200 backstroke.

"My mom was the person who pushed me through everything," said Matt. "But my coaches were everything in this accomplishment."

All three anticipate great semesters next year. While Winchell plans to use the water polo scholarship she received for California State University of Long Beach, both Matt and Valentine will return to Valley for another semester.



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

VALLEY'S ALL-AMERICANS - Valley swimmers, Valetine Alberti, Megan Winchell and Matt Alberti excel at the State Championship.

NEWS REEL

NEWSWEEK:
Newsweek has issued an apology regarding an article published this week. The article claimed that interrogators at Guantanamo Bay desecrated the Quaran in order to get information from prisoners. in a surge of violence resulting from the article, 15 people have been killed.

BUDGET WOES:
The LAPD has announced that its overtime budget is $8 million over the projected amount. With two months left in the LAPD's fiscal year, many have begun to question officers' paychecks, mainly court pay and their three-day workweek.

ICON CELEBRATED:
T.V. icon Gumby turns 50 this year and last week kicked off a series of events to mark the anniversary. The Lynn House Art Gallery in Anitoch, CA displayed memorabilia and played the short film "Gumbasia," where Gumby originated.

CAMPUS EYE

STUDENT SERIES COMMITTEE:
Wednesday, May 18 from 1:45 p.m.-2:45 p.m. at PCR.

NURSES PINNING CEREMONY:
Wednesday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m. in Monarch Hall.

FACULTY SENATE:
Thursday, May 19 from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. at Faculty Lounge.

CPR TRAINING:
Thursday, May 19 from 1 p.m.- 4 p.m. at North Gym.

PATRON'S SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS NIGHT:
Thursday, May 19 from 4 p.m.- 7 p.m. at Monarch Hall.

DIVERSITY COMMIITTEE MEETING:
Friday, May 20 from 11 p.m.- noon at CC104.

MOTORCYCLE TRAINING:
Friday, May 20 from 6 p.m.- 10 p.m. at CCR and Faculty Lounge. Saturday, May 21 from 6 a.m.- 5 p.m. at Range or noon- 9 p.m. at CCR and Sunday, May 22 from 6 a.m.- 5 p.m. at Range.

SOLDIERS' STORIES:
Saturday, May 21 at 6 :30 p.m. at the Valley Cities Jewish Community Center. A $5 donation is suggested.

POLITICAL ACTIVIST SPEAKS:
Jose Angel Gutierrez will speak at Monarch Hall on Monday, May 23 from 11:15- noon.

THINK TRANSFER

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE CAREER TRANSFER CENTER AT (818) 947-2646

ON-GOING WORKSHOPS:
Career Planning Workshop Thursdays at 1 p.m. at Adm. 126.

CAREER/ TRANSFER CENTER REPRESENTATIVE VISITS:

UCLA:
Wednesday, May 18 from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. at Adm. 126.

CAL STATE DOMINGUEZ HILLS:
Wednesday, May 18 from 9 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. at Monarch Square.

CSUN:
Monday, May 23 from 5 p.m.- 7 p.m. at Adm. 126.

CAL STATE LA:
Tuesday, May 24 from 10 a.m.- noon at Adm. 126.

ASU Election Foils Worsen

continued from page 1

the way it is."

At last week's meeting, the committee decided to disqualify Martirosyan and Chavez, and Adam Park was named president, with 78 votes in the first election.

Park was reluctantly appointed interim vice president for the remainder of the 2004-2005 year at yesterday's meeting. Last month, Salas vacated her position as vice president to fill in as interim president after Levon Bagramian was recalled.

"They're using their bureaucratic power to overturn our elected power," said Cabrera. "Having a second election is preposterous, it's completely illegal and outside of the election code."

The ASU remains uncertain of the next step. This year's council has no remaining meetings and the college will have to wait to know whether there will be another election or to find out who its next president will be.



DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR

DESPERATE TIMES - ASU presidential candidate Nelli Martiroysan and President Jessie Salas discuss the violations that led to Martirosyan and Chavez's disqualifications, at a recent Executive Council meeting. There is currently a possibility of a new election, after ASU Adviser Sherri Rodriguez overturned the Election Committee's decision.

ASU Amends Election Code

BY ANNA GOLDBGERG
STAFF WRITER

The College Counsel ordered the Associated Student Union to change its election code, stating that some of the rules were in violation of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

Last month, the ASU delayed announcing the new president due to complaints filed by some of the presidential candidates. The ASU officials said that they would hold a closed-door hearing to sort through the complaints and make a decision on the outcome of the election. The Valley Star requested access to the hearing and a copy of the complaints.

The request was initially denied and later referred to the Los Angeles Community College District General Counsel that told the ASU that it was indeed in violation of the Brown Act.

"I think we've all learned from this experience," said ASU adviser Sherri Rodriguez. "The Valley Star has taught us something. We used the information to amend our Election Code."

The Brown Act states that the only topics that may be discussed behind closed doors are those dealing with real property negotiations, pending litigation, personnel and threat to public safety and labor negotiations, but that the action taken during those closed sessions must be reported to the public.

The purpose of the policy, as stated in the Brown Act, is to make sure that the public servants do not decide what information should or should not be released to the people of the state, as well as to keep the people informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created.

"I was in favor of having it as an open hearing," said Ron Cabrera the Commissioner of Political Affairs. "The Valley Star fought the good fight."

The ASU has yet to resolve the issues with the recent election. The original decision to disqualify the two top vote-getters due to rule violations was overturned by Rodriguez. It was then followed by the Student Services ordering a new election for the position of the 2005-2006 president, upsetting the Election Committee and resulting in Jessie Salas and Jason Henderson, two of the four committee members, to resign from the committee.

Rocky Reigns As New LACCD Chancellor

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
DESIGN EDITOR

Known as "Rocky," newly elected Los Angeles Community College District Chancellor Darroch Young's nickname labels him a fighter and his reputation proves it.

Best known for his accomplishments during his tenure as President at Pierce College, Young, 57, scrapped a controversial plan to place a golf course on the 400-acre campus and organized the first campus master plan out of the nine L.A. community colleges. As interim senior vice chancellor, he was instrumental in getting additional funding for community college students and fought to change the way community college funds are allocated.

"I'm thrilled and relieved," said Young in a press release. "I really wanted this job because I believe that the Los Angeles community colleges are on the threshold of being great."

According to Young, his priorities will include reviewing the structure of the district office, creating vocational programs for high school students at community colleges and implementing a new strategic plan in order to boost low enrollment figures.

"I thought the choice was an excellent one," said Jeanne Rubin, executive assistant to the president of Valley College. "I find Mr. Young to be a completely unpretentious, extremely nice man. This may seem less than critical, but when managing a district of this size, your personal rapport with the students and staff is very important."

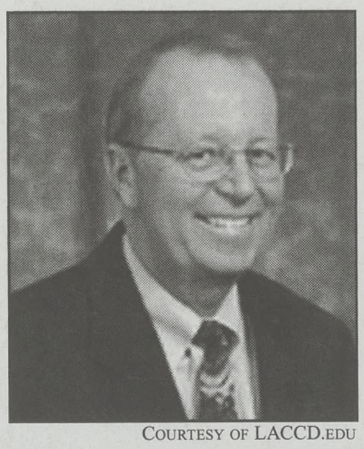
As president at Pierce in 1999, Young boosted dwindling enrollment by 51 percent, making Pierce one of the fastest-growing colleges in California. He did the same for Santa Monica College as vice president of planning and development, increasing its enrollment by 75 percent from 1986-1997.

"I'm astounded by the changes I've seen at Pierce over the last few years," said Pierce student, Amy Kenney. "I remember when my older brother went here, it was a dump. But Young really cleaned it up. He's a definite asset for LACCD."

Starting July 1, Young will be responsible for overseeing the 130,000 students and $450 million budget that make up the largest community college district in the nation.

Young became interim senior vice chancellor of the nine-college district in January 2004 when Peter Landsberger vacated the post to become the district's interim chancellor. During that time, Young was influential in changing the way community colleges allocated their funding and with Landsberger implemented the $2.2 billion bond project to improve and renovate all nine Los Angeles community college facilities.

"Rocky is one of the most highly qualified and gifted community college leaders in the country," said LACCD Board President Kelly Candaele in a press release following the election. "Our board has outlined an agenda of academic excellence, training the new workforce, fighting for student access and following through on our commitment to rebuild and expand our nine colleges. We expect Rocky to help us make those commitments a reality."



COURTESY OF LACCD.EDU

The Chicano Studies Department and MECHA presents:
Dr. Jose Gutierrez
"Challenges for Latinos in the 21st Century"
May 23, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Monarch Hall.

'Roosevelt'

continued from page 1

The Roosevelts find themselves working together again after three decades. The couple met in Santa Cruz while teaching nursery school.

Ford attributes his love of his work to the values he grew up with from his family.

"It's very important to me to know that my family has done so much," said Ford. "I feel that what I do for a living contributes to that."

A photographer by hobby, Ford got his first camera at 12 from his father, Elliott. Ford still insists the favorite photographs he took were of his grandmother whom he adored.

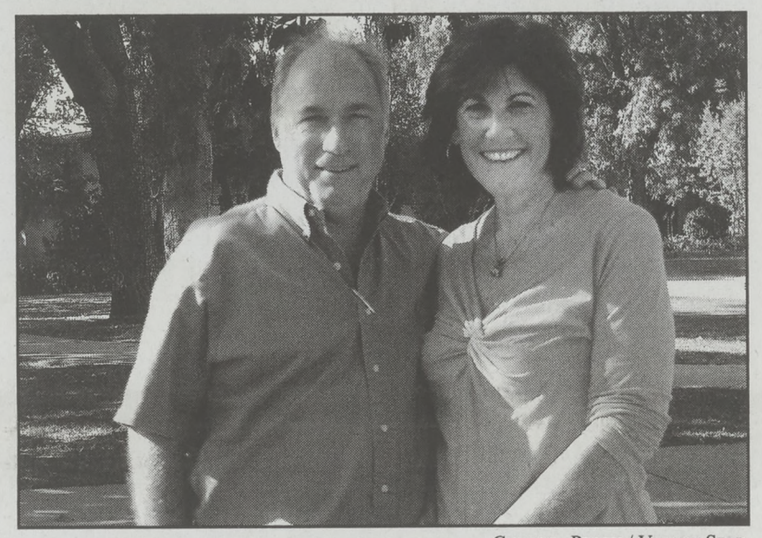
"[My grandmother] was and still is a real inspiration to me," said Ford. "It's very motivating to see what she did for human rights."

As Eleanor dedicated her life to people, Marni has fashioned her life after the little people.

Initially she had a private childcare consultant firm and has worked for major studios such NBC and Disney.

Marni says her decision to work with toddlers comes from knowing that "the care we give children 0 to 5 years old is so important. It builds the foundation for their lives."

Franklin and Eleanor's legacy have not only affected their grandson's life, but their grandchildren's as well.



CYNTHIA PERRY / VALLEY STAR

IN FROM THE COLD - After years on the streets with the L.A. County Sheriff's Department Cort Bishop is now the head of L.A. Valley College Sheriff's Department.

According to Ford, their family heritage has made a significant impact on his son Jon's political life.

The couple's 22-year-old son, works for "People for the American Way," a non-profit organization founded in 1980. Its purpose is to engage more citizens in civic and political action and to counter all forms of discrimination.

"People don't often ask much about my heritage," said Ford. "But it's in my heart."

Ford continued saying his heritage and grandmother will always be a large part of his life. "There's a quote from my grandmother that inspires us both: 'You must do one thing everyday that you are afraid of.'"

CAMPUS CRIME

Grand and Petty Theft Incidents Seize the Campus

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
DESIGN EDITOR

Grand and Petty Theft

Since the start of May, more than $1300 worth of merchandise was reported stolen.

The earliest incident occured on May 4 when officers responded to a disturbance call between two male students at the south gym.

At 9 a.m. the victim left his back pack containing $600 in the weight room as he worked out.

When the victim returned to his bag, twenty minutes later, he noticed his money was missing. According to the victim, he noticed one individual, a former roomate, laundering around the bag, but he did not see the suspect take the money. Another witness confirmed the victim's accusations.

A report has been filed, no charges have been issued.

Also on May 4, a male student reported the rear spoiler to his BMW missing. While in class between 3 p.m.- 9 p.m. an unknown suspect took the spoiler from his car parked in Lot E. No suspects have been found, the spoiler is estimated at $500.

Petty theft incidents include a stolen purse with $160 worth of goods taken from Business/ Journalism room 106 on May 5 and a $100 yellow mountain bike taken outside Monarch Hall on May 7. There were no witnesses and the suspects still remain at large.

The Valley College Sheriff's Department asks that anyone with information regarding any of these incidents please call the department at (818) 947-2911.

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STAFF EDITORIAL

B.S. Is for ASU!

We were so close.

The Valley Star had an editorial ready to run in this space praising the ASU Election Committee for making a tough choice, overturning their decision to disqualify both of the top two vote-getters in the recent election and holding a new vote.

The problem is, despite urging from ASU Advisor Sherri Rodriguez, committee members resigned rather than agreeing to hold a new election.

That apparently leaves the distant third-place finisher to ascend to the presidency on the strength of only 78 votes. Total.

That's .43 percent (yes, .0043) of the 18,000 Valley students who pay for, and are represented by, the ASU.

That's not democracy.

One concerned committee member called the idea of holding a new election "The most unfair thing I've ever seen."

Really? More unfair than four students deciding that bureaucratic policies - some of which having recently been proven to violate the Brown Act - are more important than the will of the voters?

"Rules are rules," we can hear them chanting, and although hundreds of other students chose the top two candidates, a handful of voters violating the ASU's questionable election code have thrown the whole organization into turmoil. The Election Committee caught them on technicalities and now they will pay.

And now every Valley student will pay.

A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of small student governments.

Congratulations, ASU. You got 'em. You got 'em good.

How FCC'd Up Is This?

BY BRIAN DEAN
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

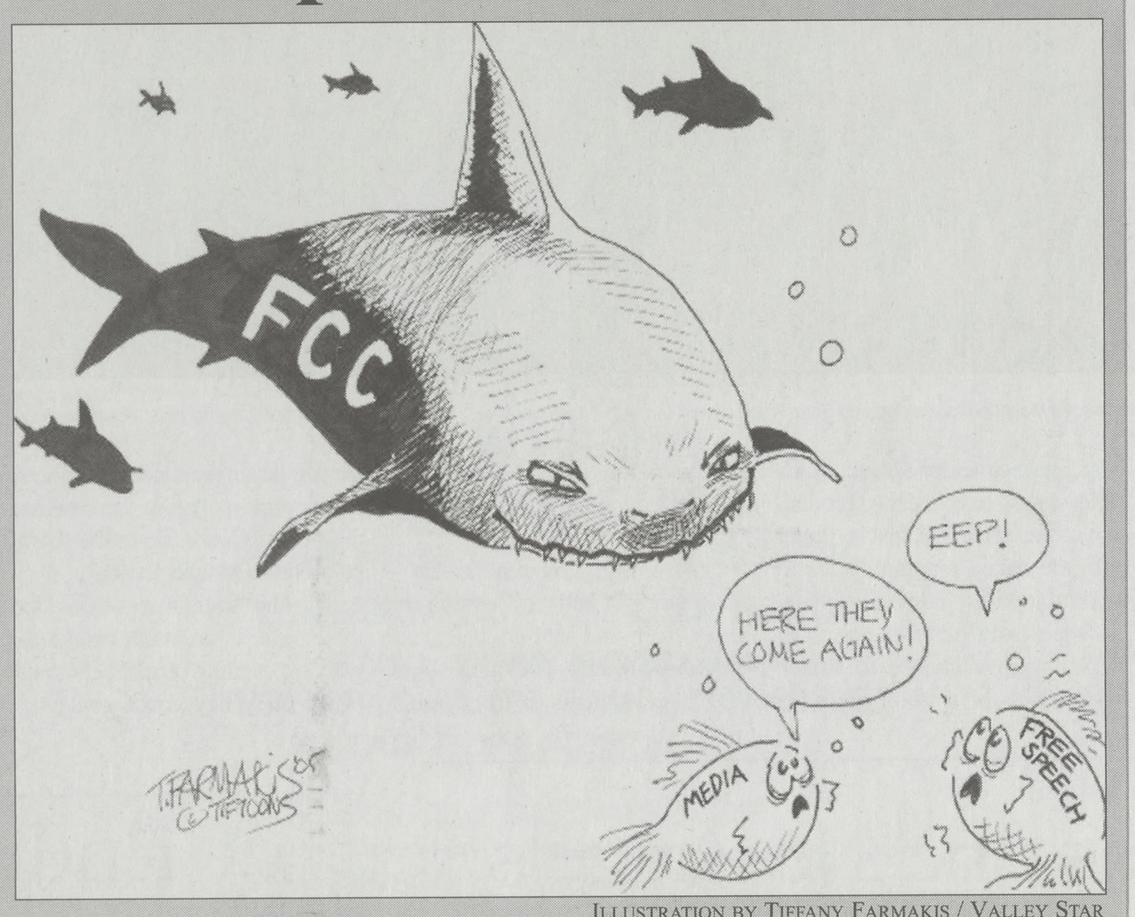


ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

This did not all start with Janet Jackson's breast.

For years, conservative groups have catalogued incidents and complained about broadcast indecency to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The FCC has largely denied these claims, and rightly so.

One complaint asserted that Buffy the Vampire Slayer straddling a vanquished opponent, both clothed, was indecent. But in response to Jackson, the FCC, and the Congress that controls it, have gone too far.

Though the so-called "wardrobe malfunction" may have been in perfect working order for Jackson and Timberlake, the fact that it was broadcast was purely accidental. Regardless, a little more than a month later, the House of Representatives voted to increase FCC indecency fines and nearly six months later, the Senate voted 99 to 1 to raise the maximum penalty from $27,500 to $275,000.

This should have been the end of the issue. Fines were increased; broadcasters were given a good reason to be more careful, especially during live shows.

But the conservative voices became louder. Watchdog organizations such as the American Decency Association began to seize the opportunity to remake the media in their image.

Congressman Joe Barton now wants the FCC to regulate content on pay services like satellite radio and cable television, including premium services like HBO.

When asked about the channel-blocking mechanisms already in place for parents to protect their children, Barton said they're not well-known and not automatic.

Presumably, this means either those methods are not enough to satisfy his political financiers, or parental laziness must be accommodated.

In one complaint letter to the FCC, a woman boasts of her 8-year-old son's ability to read at a 12th grade level as a direct result of getting rid of her cable and not allowing secular media to pollute her home.

Yet somehow, other parents are not responsible enough to do simple things like switching to music instead of talk radio in the morning. They must be protected by regulators like Barton who would take the toys away from everyone because a few can't play sensibly.

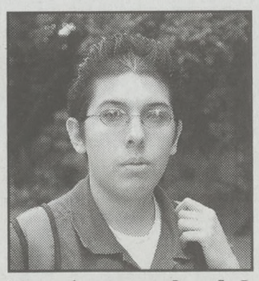
What sense does it make to regulate mature programming based on one incident that happened during family programming? Some would say it's another step toward a total media revolution by Christian conservatives that began with an increase in obscenity lawsuits from the Department of Justice in 2003.

Regardless of the agenda, the FCC needs to know that responsible people do exist, and that their world will not fall to pieces at the sight of a nipple.

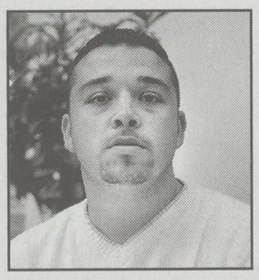
CampusView

PHOTOS BY DAN VILLASENOR

Has the FCC gone too far?



"For the most [part] I do disapprove of it. The government is trying to censor what we watch."
-Conard Hernandez
Science, 19



"It is each individual's decision ... I don't want other people to limit what I watch."
-Carlos Jacobos
Kinesiology, 24



"They don't have the right to censor what we watch. It is the parent's job to do that."
- Jennifer Hartman
Economics, 25



"I think it should be left to the head of the household. That is why the V-Chip was created."
-Christal Lopez
Social Worker, 31 (alumna)

Dedication or Discrimination?

Ms. Theresa Chavez, your profound contempt toward the Armenian nationality is atrocious. Your words are spoken as that of a racial discriminator. An individual as proud, hardworking and passionate toward school activities such as Nelli Martirosyan, regardless of race, gender, or skin color, deserves to rank No. 1 in any desired position. How is it that Nelli Martirosyan had a landslide victory of 54% of the voting population, ALONE, and the remaining three opponents had 46% of the votes, COMBINED? It is only a matter of time that justice will prevail.

Ms. Chavez, earlier you referred to Nelli's campaign helpers as a "MAFIA" – A secret criminal organization of Italian origin operating in the United States and engaged in illegal activities such as gambling, drug-dealing, and prostitution. If any one person can stand up to me and point out that [any] of the [above-listed] was taking place on school grounds [because of Nelli's helpers], then you, Ms. Theresa Chavez, have every right to consider me part of a mafia.

It is sad to think that a student such as yourself cannot simply comprehend the true meaning of the word "mafia." After dedicating an entire day, putting in long hours for what we believe to be right and demonstrating the rights granted to us by the Bill of Rights itself, "the right of the people to vote and freely exercise their political status," how dare a defeated and miserable individual criticize the hard work of all campaign helpers?

The fact of the matter is, Theresa Chavez, life is a game and it isn't whether one wins or loses which decides one's character, but the sportsmanship of that individual. Let all envious souls take a lesson of how goals are achieved by mimicking Nelli's campaign strategies. After all, if Nelli's "mafia" was capable of maintaining such organization and dedication throughout the entire campaign, whatever happened to your "mafia"?????

LIANNA KARCHIKYAN
STUDENT

[Editor's Note: Ms. Chavez was quoted in the April 27 issue of The Valley Star as saying "I was verbally attacked by one of Nelli's campaign helpers. I felt like there was a mafia surrounding me." Ms. Chavez was describing alleged violations in the ASU election.]

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The ASU *Is* Here for You

I am writing to respond to the staff editorial in the last issue. First though, for those who don't know what the Associated Student Union (ASU) is: We are a group of students elected to represent Valley College students on a local, state and national level, as well as getting students involved on campus.

Moving on, I'd like to end this debate right here. Levon Bagramian won last year's election because he campaigned aggressively and intelligently. Yes, he did get a lot of Armenian votes, but he also got a lot of non-Armenian votes.

I know this better than anybody – I ran against him.

Student apathy is not a new phenomenon, but it's crazy to me that students would not want to have a voice in issues that deal directly with their lives.

The students in the last issue suggested having banners, more exposure of candidates, debates and speaking to classes. Thing is, we did all of those things last year and only got about 645 votes.

I hear students complaining all the time, but rarely do I see those students actually involved in what they complain about.

At the same time, how can we expect students to take interest in the ASU when our school newspaper consistently writes negative articles about us?

What about highlighting things we do when we are not involved in petty bickering? Like attending countless meetings on behalf of students, putting on numerous events and fielding a plethora of specific student concerns.

So, despite what The Valley Star and some passionate – though misguided – individuals may write about us, the ASU has been and will continue to work hard for the students of Los Angeles Valley College.

If you have a concern, question, or just want to talk, we're here for you in Campus Center 102.

IGOR KAGAN
ASU CHIEF JUSTICE

ASU: Open, Sez Me

For the past few weeks, the paper has been running stories about the ASU and how they haven't chosen a president. The thing that bugs me the most is that they are having some kind of "secret meetings." I think that these meetings should be open to whoever feels like going. I mean, these people are supposed to be working for us so we should know what is going on inside.

In the last issue the paper ran an article that says that the people in charge are actually breaking the law by not allowing people to be at these meetings. I am not saying that I would actually come to these meetings because to me these people already messed up big and I don't want to be a part of making the problem worse. But, I do want to know what is going on in there so they should at least let the press in there. The people in the school need to know everything that goes on in there and the best way to do this is to have somebody to report to us about what is going on.

Bottom line is, these people are wrong and somebody should let them know. As the press, I think you guys should be on the inside and then report to us, the students. After all, we are the ones who put these people in office. We gave these people their positions and I think they should abide by the laws that come with the job.

ANA CASTILLO

[Editor's Note: Following last week's stories, the ASU did release the complaints that instigated the delay in releasing the election results. They also opened the subsequent election-related meeting to the press - see story on Page 1 of this issue.]

Stop the Accusations

I am a 50-year-old Valley College student who feels a lot of pain in her heart because of the accusations made in The Valley Star by students who have no idea who Levon Bagramian and Nelli Martirosyan are. There is a huge reason why Armenians voted for these two brilliant people to become ASU presidents. I am writing this letter on behalf of many Armenians who I know at Valley.

For the past two months I've read The Valley Star and it pains me to read some students' accusations [of] Levon Bagramian being elected because he was an Armenian. Also, when ASU declares the winner for 2005-2006 year ASU president, who [I think] is going to be Nelli Martirosyan, I am sure there will be the same kind of accusations as there were about the other Armenian elected candidates for 2005-2006.

Those accusing, do they have any idea about who Levon Bagramian and Nelli Martirosyan are?

Let me tell you how I got to know them both. It was a few years ago when I turned on the TV and for the first time saw Levon Bagramian and Nelli Martirosyan representing an organization that is very active in the Armenian community. On the TV show that they were the guests of, they were encouraging [viewers] to attend a concert organized by the organization they were a part of; with the proceeds of the concert [going toward] rebuilding a school in Areguni, a border village in Armenia. [At] first, I wasn't sure if they would keep their promise. However, I went to the concert, contributed to the cause and impatiently waited for the results. After a few months, they presented a videotape of the reopening of the remodeled school.

Now, let me assure everyone that if the people I know at Valley and I didn't know how brilliant Levon Bagramian and Nelli Martirosyan were we [wouldn't have] voted for them.

Valley students must feel blessed and be thankful to both of them for trying to make a difference in our college.

MARIAM DANIELYAN
VALLEY STUDENT

MORE LETTERS ONLINE: WWW.LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

VALLEY LIFE

WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

Wednesday, May 18

Kelly Clarkson
8 p.m.
Wiltern LG
$38.50 to $42.50
also, Thursday, May 19

Thursday, May 19

Film Release
"Star Wars- Episode 3 Revenge of the Sith"
Dir: George Lucas
Ewan McGregor, Natalie Portman,
Hayden Christensen

Friday, May 20

LAVC Guitar Ensemble
Robert Mayeur, director
8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall
Pre-sale: $15 for 2 tickets; $10 at door

Audioslave
8 p.m.
Wiltern LG
$36.50

Bodies Moving
8 p.m.
Mainstage Theatre
General Admission: $10
Students: $8
also, Saturday, May 21

Sunday, May 22

Lenny Kravitz
8 p.m.
Wiltern LG
$50-$60

Monday, May 23

LAVC Wind Ensemble
Dean Immel, conductor
8 p.m.
Monarch Hall
$5

CAMPUS CLUBS

Monday:

ASA
Armenian Student Association
Meeting Place: CC 201
Time: 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
President: Gayane Markosyan
(818) 438-9825

BSU
Black Student Union
Meeting Place: FL 112
Time: 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
President: Crystal Willis
BSU_lavc@yahoo.com

VCP
Valley Collegiate Players
Meeting Place: TA 101
Time: 3 p.m.
President: Joanne Jacques
(818) 648-8456

DANCE
Meeting Place: North Gym,Dance Studio
Time: 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
President: Zerline Webb
(818) 231-3971

Tuesday:

TAE
Tau Alpha Epsilon
Meeting Place: CC 205
Time: 1 p.m.
President: Lorelie Sabado
(818) 367-9152

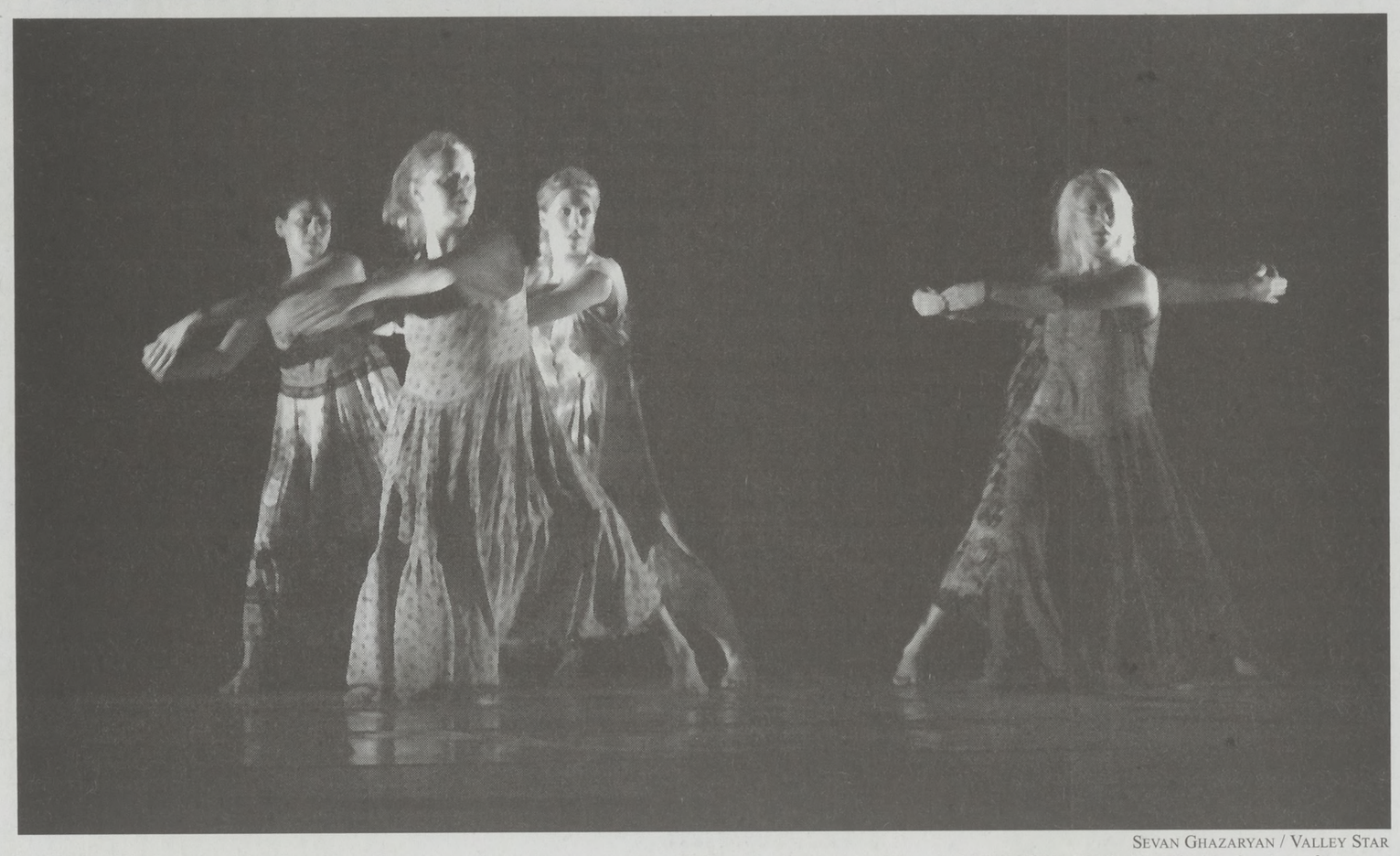
MUSIC
Meeting Place: Music 105
Time: 3:15 p.m.
President: Robyn Mims
(818) 309-6027

Wednesday:

M.E.Ch.A
Meeting Place: FL 111
Time: 2:30 p.m.
President: Erika Meraz
(818) 985-7041

HILLEL
Meeting Place: Monarch Square
Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
President: David Blaustein
(818) 257-4660

"Little Miracles" Move Dance Forward



SEVAN GHAZARYAN / VALLEY STAR

LEARNING TO FLY - Taylor Doop, Alina Bolsakova, Kristen Roskowick and Tara Proden soar through a rehearsal of "Pilot 37" for the Bodies Moving dance performance this weekend at the Main Stage Theatre.

BY MAGGIE OWNBEY
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Dance Moving Forward brings guest artists to Valley College for the production —Bodies Moving.

For anthropology major Angelina Schneider-Morel, 28,it's a blessing to have a dance production of this scale her first semester with the dance program. "[It's a] labor of love—a little miracle."

Her solo performance, 'Del Sur,' is also a chance to stretch her talents as a choreographer; her piece uses water elements to explore a young woman's dream on a beach.

"[It's my] first time to choreograph, [I had to] overcome every fear and self-doubt," said Schneider-Morel. The more than 40 Valley students in the concert are enrolled in the dance department; this is an opportunity to showcase their talents, according to the shows co-producer Margie Thomas.

" The festival has provided three guest artists-in-residence, who are creating original choreography on Valley dance students," said the shows producer and director Geordie Wright, a Valley dance professor. "Our concert will also include other works by faculty and students."

Arianne MacBean founder of the DMFF says that the artist residencies at Valley are a core element of the DMFF programming and they embody the high quality of engagement with dance that the festival is all about.

" The liaison between Valley and [the] Dance Moving Forward Festival [is] incredibly enriching for all involved," said MacBean.

Guest artist Lauri Stallings, has an extensive career that includes choreographing for the Atlanta Ballet and the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago

"We are all dancers, we move through life every day," said Stallings. "Life is a dance moving through time and space."

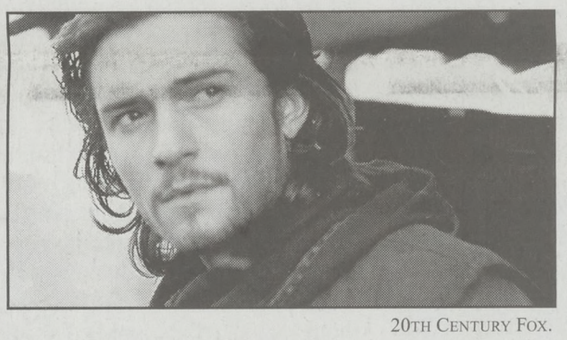
Exposing students to this kind of experience is amazing says Wright. "They get to see the art side of it--often for the first time."

"I know the artists have given a lot to the process, and I know the students have given all they have to the art," said MacBean. "Together, they are creating something incredibly special and unique – and not found in very many community college settings. We are lucky to have each other."

***Bodies Moving**—Mainstage Theatre, May 20,21 at 8p.m. No reservations required, for more information call: (818) 947-2908*

FILM REVIEWS

Crusades and No Angels



20TH CENTURY FOX.

BY MARC HOWARD
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

"KINGDOM OF HEAVEN"
Dir: Ridley Scott
Feat.: Orlando Bloom, Edward Norton
★★★★ (out of 5)

In the splendidly choreographed battle sequences of "KINGDOM OF HEAVEN," flaming arrows fly, swords are wielded, limbs are lost and there is no shortage of bloodletting. Ironically the film is far less about war than it is about the value of peace and the nature of virtue and honor.

"Kingdom of Heaven" does more than give us a history lesson within an entertaining blockbuster. It questions our motivations to fight. This inquiry is particularly valid when one considers the present state of things in the region in which the film is set.

In the year 1184, between the 2nd and 3rd Crusades, Jerusalem is under Christian rule and the informal truce fostered by King Baldwin IV and Muslim leader Saladin is near collapse as factions on each side of the holy conflict are calling for war against the other. At the heart of the film is the plight of Balian (Orlando Bloom), a blacksmith who is improbably knighted and eventually appointed by Baldwin to lead the defense of Jerusalem against Saladin's encroaching army.

Bloom's performance is credible and assured. In Balian's pre-battle negotiation with Saladin, we believe him wholeheartedly when he declares that any man that dares to approach the walls of the holy city will meet their end.

A few period war epic clichés do appear in the film, such as the reluctant hero and the stock speech that precedes the climactic battle sequence. What's interesting, though, is that Balian's reluctance to be the hero is due to the fact that he is unsure of whether he is worthy of fighting for the ultimate cause, God's cause. And while the pre-battle speech is not always necessary, in this case dramatically it works.

The movie works on many levels: its story for the most part seems to be directly from the history books, costume and set designs are realistic, and brilliant performances abound. But what sets "Kingdom of Heaven" apart from other films of its ilk is how it spotlights current world issues within the context of a story that occurred hundreds of years ago.

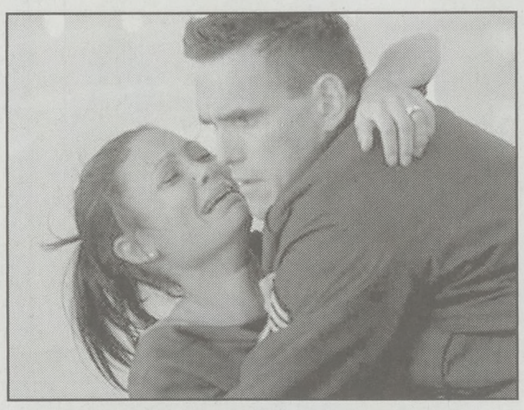
Haggis and co-writer Robert Moresco's characters are rich. They manage to avoid depicting any one character as a complete angel or as Satan himself, which is no easy task when dealing with the issue of racism. They remain objective in their portrayals of racial politics but it seems they try too hard to persuade the audience to suspend judgment.

Case in point: Matt Dillon is a racist cop who pulls over affluent blacks, representing what forms abuse of police power can take. In another scene he's depicted as the loving son fighting with an HMO over his ailing father's health care, but unable to suppress his racism when he needs to be diplomatic. In a later scenario Dillon emerges as a hero and it seems that the filmmakers are trying to say, "See, even bad people have some goodness in their hearts."

Late in the film, after being pulled into the world of these characters, the plot relies on coincidences that are difficult to accept. Furthermore, some characters begin to act and react to things in unbelievable ways. Maybe the filmmakers expect the audience to accept that people do the unexplainable at times, but here the characters' actions just don't ring true.

"Crash" presents convincing depictions of the conversations that go on behind closed doors at city hall, interracial relationships and the difficulties of fighting bureaucracies. Disappointingly though, loose ends and inconsistency turn a promising movie into a letdown.

In the end "Crash" is a "would've, should've, could've been."



"CRASH"
Dir: Paul Haggis
Feat.: Don Cheadle, Matt Dillon, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges
★★★ (out of 5)

"CRASH," a hard look at racism in Los Angeles, is one of the most thought-provoking films of the year but doesn't quite live up to its potential greatness.

Concerning a dozen or so loosely connected characters (think "Short Cuts" or "Magnolia") the film deals with the conflicts that arise during a short period in their intersecting lives, where they "Crash" into each other.

Co-writer and director Paul Haggis' (writer of "Million Dollar Baby") script is on par with the Altman and Anderson films as far as character development and dialogue. Unlike those films however, as this film's plot becomes more and more complex, the movie becomes more and more difficult to believe.

Enduring Durang at VCP

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Valley Collegiate Players' two-weekend run of Christopher Durang's "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You" and "The Actor's Nightmare" ended Saturday in Valley College's Horseshoe Theatre.

The two plays, written in the1980s, haven't lost their intrigue for today's audiences. In "Sister Mary," the title character, a know-it-all devout Catholic nun, instructs the audience on how they should live their lives ("You must repent your mortal sins to prevent an eternity in hell"). Sister Mary soon finds herself at the mercy of the very students who she's tortured. But she is always a step ahead.

The fast-paced "Actor's Nightmare" revolves around an accountant who finds himself as the star of a play that goes from "Private Lives" to "Hamlet" to "Endgame."

While both plays keep the audience laughing, "Sister Mary" might rub some the wrong way.

Valley student and veteran television actress Bernadette Birkett ("The Gary Shandling Show") masterfully portrays the title role in "Sister Mary," conveying the nun's manipulative, deranged way of teaching children. Birkett has directed three productions at Valley, while appearing most recently in the college's production of "A Christmas Carol."

Theatre major Vincent Perez displayed impressive versatility as one of several actors appearing in both plays. He portrayed a Shakespearean actor in "Actor's Nightmare," using an authoritive tone and commanding presence, and was memorable as Sister Mary's loyal student in "Sister Mary," who hung on her every word. Perez convincingly portrayed the peppy 7-year-old Thomas with enthusiasm. Perez also recently appeared in a scene from "Moulin Rouge" in Valley's Showcase Awards and as a female reporter in the college's production of "Chicago."

VCP vice president Tim Miller also appeared in both pieces. As George, the lead character in "The Actor's Nightmare," Miller dominated the stage with excellent comedic timing as he did in "Sister Mary," portraying a disgruntled former student of the power-crazed nun.

"I'm sorry. This is supposed to be 'Hamlet' or 'Private Lives' or something, and I keep rattling on like a maniac. I really do apologize. I just don't recall attending a single rehearsal," George says to the audience.

Reciting the alphabet, the Catholic contrition and the Pledge of Allegiance to fill dead space, George tries everything as he desperately scrambles around the stage trying to figure out which play he is in.

Between George's desperation in "Actor's Nightmare" and Mary's insanity in "Sister Mary," the audience was left in stitches.

Director Hallie Baran, who has directed six productions at Valley, will have limited involvement in future theatre productions due to her new position as ASU's next fine arts commissioner.

'Election'

continued from page 1

Angeles by millions of dollars), while Villaraigosa faces a probe by District Attorney Steve Cooley's office into possible money laundering over a $41,000 campaign donation from a Miami-based business.

Villaraigosa's platform focused on public transportation and health care, while Hahn's main concern is traffic and education. The City Councilman said that his goal is to get traffic moving: "It's more than an inconvenience it keeps us from our families, it pollutes and costs our economy," according to Antonio2005.com, Villaraigosa's official website.

Hahn's campaign countered that the mayor had resolved the crippling bus strikes. "Mayor Hahn got the MTA to drop the lawsuits [and get] the buses back on the streets," said Hahn Press Secretary Yusef Robb in a conference call to community colleges.

'White'

continued from page 1

highlighted the impact White's music had on their lives. Tommy Burns of Valley's football team shared a touching story of how he heard "That's the Way of the World" on the day his mother died. After that, every time he heard the song radio, it made him sad – but as he grew up, it became warmly nostalgic for him, reminding him of his mother and how he was when he was younger.

"I went from gang-banging to become a better person," said Burns. "I wish my mom was here to see my accomplishments."

White gave the audience "Reasons" to be excited with his presence.

"I am here to witness the award and to be a part of it," said custodian Leon Hardin. "I am a big fan of Earth, Wind and Fire and I wanted to be here to see the man in person and shake his hand."

Since this first event was so successful, the BSU plans on honoring Stevie Wonder with a Cultural Achievement Award of Excellence next spring.

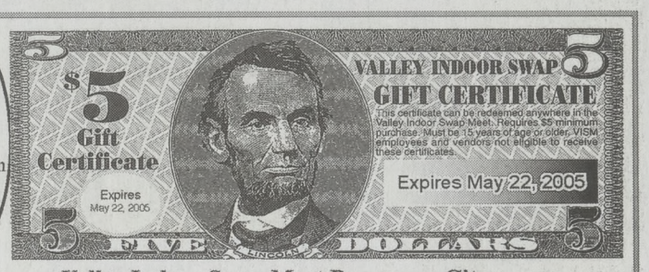
"I thought this event was a tremendous success," said Mitchell. "This was a wonderful way to begin the Cultural Achievement Awards. Maurice White was most deserving."

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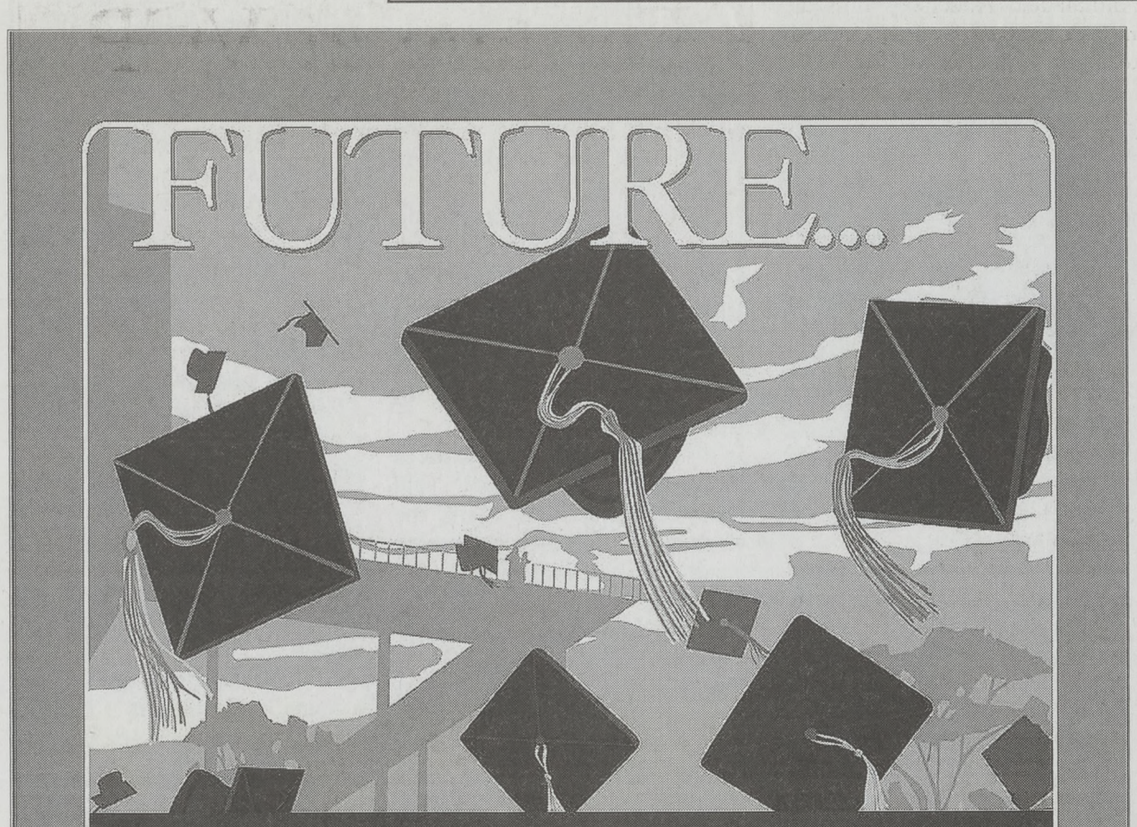
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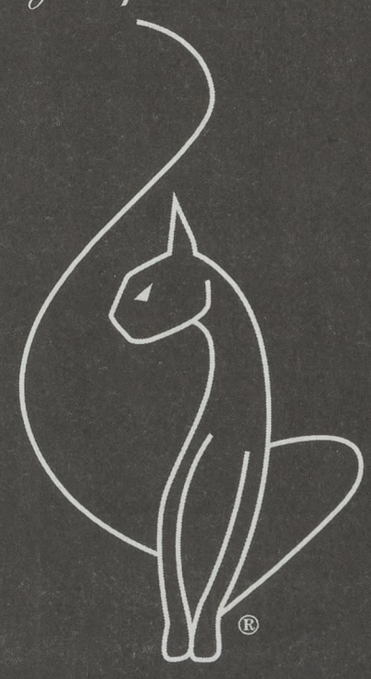
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Stars of the Week

All-American Swimmers

Matt Alberti
He took seventh in state in 400-meter individual medley with a time of 4 minutes and 13.10 seconds.

Valentine Alberti
She took seventh in state in 100-meter free style with a time of 55.21 seconds.

Megan Winchell
She placed third in state in 100-meter breaststroke setting a new school record.

Baseball

Eddie Baeza *Pitcher*
He battled 2 for 9, including a home run and a single.

Miguel Gomez *Shortstop*
He went 5 for 8; including 3 singles and a walk.

Matt Jordan *1st Baseman*
He batted 2 for 8, including 2 singles and 2 RBI on Sunday.

Jorge Olmedo *Pitcher*
He Pitched five innings and surrendered only 2 runs in Sunday's loss.

DJ Lewis *Left Fielder*
He went 3 for 8; including a home run and 3 RBI in Sunday's loss.

Track & Field

Antoinette Burton *High Jumper*
She placed fifth in the state meet in Sacramento.

LAVC SCORES

Baseball vs. Cypress (L 5-1) 5/14/05

Baseball vs. Cypress (L 10-8) 5/15/05

PRO SCORES

MLB (May 16, 2005)

Washington def. Milwaukee (5-2)

NY Mets def. Cincinnati (9-2)

San Diego def. Atlanta (5-3)

Florida def. LA Dodgers (5-2)

NBA Playoffs

West

With the Phoenix Suns (4-0 series win over the Memphis Grizzles), San Antonio Spurs (4-1 series win over the Denver Nuggets), and the Seattle Supersonics (4-1 series win over the Sacramento Kings) easily winning their first round series, the only exciting series was between the Dallas Mavericks and the Houston Rockets. This series went the distance as the Mavericks handed the Rockets a 40-point 116-76 loss in game 7.

East

While the two top seeded teams (the Miami Heat sweeping the New Jersey Nets 4-0 and the Detroit Pistons beating the Philadelphia 76ers in five games) both the series between the Boston Celtics vs. the Indiana Pacers and the Chicago Bulls vs. The Washington Wizards went the distance as the Pacers and Wizards held on to crucial game 7 wins.

For more sport photos and stories, please visit www.lavalleystar.com

Magical Season Ends with 10-8 Loss to Cypress

■ **The Monarchs' Baseball fall in first round of regional playoffs after finishing first in the Western State Conference.**

BY SAM HAHN
STAFF WRITER

After going from worst to first in just one season, the eighth-seeded Monarchs ended their phenomenal 2005 campaign with a pair of disappointing losses in the first round of regional playoffs to ninth- seeded Cypress College and were swept 5-1 and 10-8 in a best-of-three series on May 14-15.

"[The season] went great," said first-year head coach Dave Mallas. "We wanted to compete and I think that's what we did, and we did more."

The Monarchs finished the season 24-16 and made the regional playoffs for the first time in nearly 10 years after finishing 1-34 last season, with a 6-101-1 record in the last four seasons.

Entering play Saturday, the Monarchs faced tough competition from Cypress (who won the state championship in 2003) and the Chargers jumped on sophomore pitcher Eddie Baeza.

The right-handed pitcher, who carried the Monarchs on the mound and in the field flexed a 10-0 record and a 1.05 ERA coming into the game. But, he struggled as he gave up five runs in the first four innings of work.

Valley's lone run came the fourth inning as Baeza helped his own cause by blasting a home run.

However, that was the only offense the Monarchs could muster as Valley only managed eight hits and left eight runners on.

> "Obviously, it's amazing what we accomplished this year...We hope that it continues from here…"

It was the same story on Sunday as sophomore pitcher Jorge Olmedo's (0 wins last season, 6-2 this season) effort was wasted by the bullpen. The only pitcher returning from last season, Olmedo left leading 3-2 after five innings.

The Chargers jumped on relievers Adrian Bautisa by scoring six runs in the sixth inning to reclaim the lead 8-3.

Valley answered in the seventh with a four-run at burst highlighted by sophomore left-fielder DJ Lewis' two-run home run to cut Cypress' lead to 8-7.

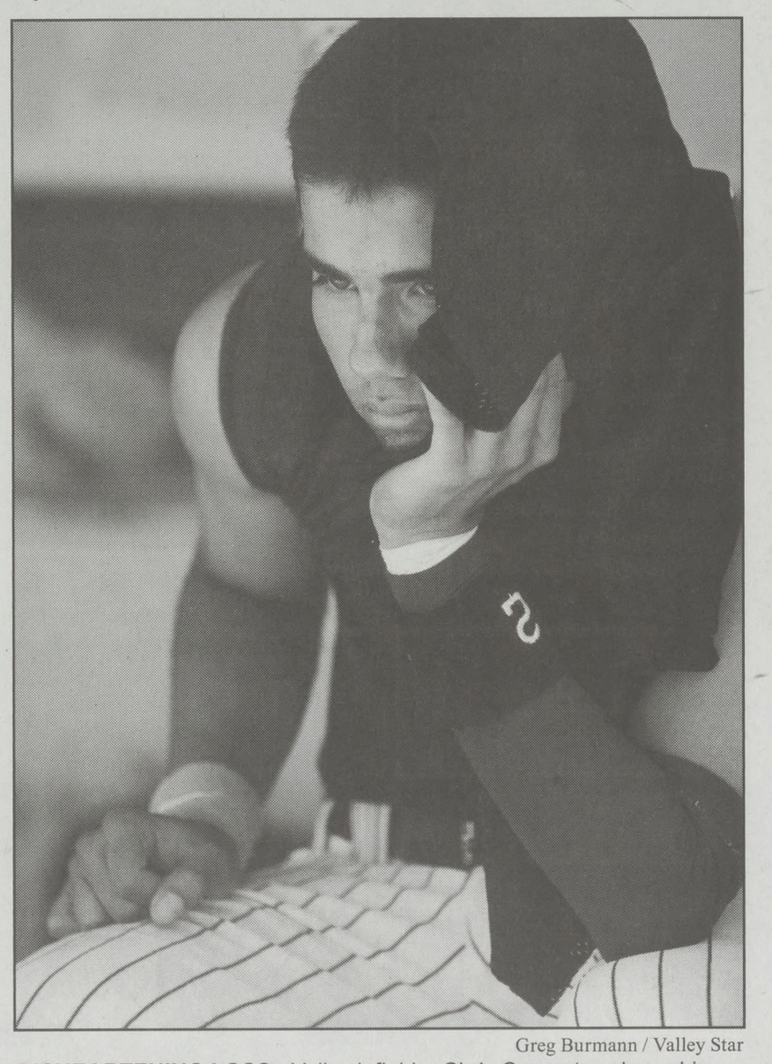
The Chargers took a 10-7 lead into the top of the ninth inning after scoring a pair of runs in the seventh and eighth innings. The Monarchs rallied in the ninth, but mustered just one run on a RBI single by Lewis.

"We had a great year, but we couldn't get it done today," said first baseman Matt Jordan. "We had a great season, but it's sad to end it like this."

"Obviously, it's amazing what we accomplished this year," Mallas said. "We hope that it continues from here… we believe that [this season's success] wasn't a fluke.

Tears flowed as players embraced one another, including departing sophomores Baeza, Olmedo, and second baseman Robert Ninfo.

"It feels good to win," said a teary Olmedo. "We had a horrible season last year, and we battled every day. We set the bar this season, and I believe that this program will be very successful in the coming years."



Greg Burmann / Valley Star

DISHEARTENING LOSS - Valley infielder Chris Cervantes shows his disappointment over the Monarchs' elmination from the postseason by Cypress College in a 10-8 lost on Saturday.

Softball Finished in 1st Round

■ **Lady Monarchs suffer heartbreaking 1-0 loss to Saddleback College.**

BY SAM HAHN
STAFF WRITER

CYPRESS-Valley softball ended its season with a heartbreaking 1-0 extra inning loss to Saddleback College on Sunday May 8. The Lady Monarchs were officially eliminated from playoff contention as they lost 8-1 to the Cypress Lancers Saturday afternoon.

The Lady Monarchs finished their 2005 campaign with a 27-14-1 overall record.

Even with the first round loss, Head Coach Frankie Garcia expressed a sense of accomplishment for a team that played its first playoff appearance in school history.

"It was incredible," Garcia said of the season. "I was very pleased to see the payoff of all these ladies' hard work."

Entering regional play as a 13th seed, the Lady Monarchs struggled against their top seeded counterparts as they scored just one run in the two losses.

"We were prepared as a team but there's a big difference between the playoffs and the regular season," said Garcia.

According to Garcia, even though the Lady Monarchs exited the playoffs early, it was a tremendous step for them in the right direction as the team is still rebuilding.

"One of my main goals for this season was to get into the regional [playoffs]," said freshman center fielder Breckon Bronner. "I knew coming in that Valley wasn't too good, but we did well this season."

For sophomore catcher Lorena Arreguin, the season's success did come at a price.

"It hurt because we knew that our final game was going to be against Glendale. So, we set ourselves up for it," said Arreguin. "But, this year, because we made playoffs, we didn't know when our run was going to end, and unfortunately we left a lot sooner than we wanted too."

Arreguin also added that she improved greatly as a player and learned a lot from the Garcia and her coaching staff.

"The experience was fantastic," sophomore pitcher/outfielder Amanda Salazar said. "Coach Garcia always said that it was a risk to play at Valley, but her coaching staff and confidence really made me want to come. It's been great, and it went by quickly."



Greg Burmann / Valley Star

TEARING EYES- Deyssy Esquivel consoles Sandra Chavez after their elemination from playoffs.

Runner 5th in State

■ **Track Star Antoinette Burton took fifth the state in high jump with a jump of 5 feet an 2 inches.**

BY TAMMY FUNICELLO
STAFF WRITER

Freshman Antoinette Burton finished her season as the 5th best high jumper in the state with a jump of 5'2" in the state meet held on May 14 in Sacramento.

"It feels great to have qualified [for state], but I feel so empty because only the top four get a medal," said Burton.

Burton whose person record is 5'4" was the only one on the Valley team to qualify for state.

"It's a privilege to make it this far as a freshman," said Burton. "I want to thank the coaches for all their hard work and for continuing on with me."

Both the men's and women's teams ended their seasons earlier this month, and this group of mostly freshman had a few top place finishers.

"We had a great season," said thrower Henry Segura. "We had a lot of competition, but we overcame all of the obstacles."

Along with Burton's second place finish in the conference, Jenny Portillo finished sixth in the pole vault with a jump of 9'6" and Alma Palacios finished fifth in the steeple with a time of 13:31.3. In the relays the 4x100 meter team came in fourth place with a time of 52.40 seconds and the 4x400 meter team came in seventh place with a time of 4:28.8.

Overall, the track team had a good season with many highlights, especially Portillo breaking the school record in pole vault halfway through the season.

"We really grew together as a team," said hurdler Charles King. "We became a family."

Outfielder Gets her Work Done on and Off the Field

■ **Breckon Bronner might be just another freshmen, but you wouldn't notice that when she is playing softball.**

BY ZABIE MANSOORY
SPORTS EDITOR

She was an Amateur Softball Association National Champion at age of 12 and a Western State Conference first team center fielder at 18 and next year, Breckon Bronner will be back with the Monarchs.

"I asked her to step it up, as freshmen she did very well," said Head Coach Frankie Garcia. "She's a fun athlete."

With 15 RBIs, 15 stolen bases and a .406 batting average, Bronner lead the Monarch's softball team on and off the field. She also helped the Monarchs to a 27-14-1 record.

"I was the only freshmen to start at varsity in my school," said the 18-year-old Bronner. "I beat out the starting outfielders for the starting position early in the season."

The former Birmingham High School player is part of the first Valley College softball team to advance to the post-season in the team's history.



Greg Burmann / Valley Star

GIVING HER 110% - Outfielder Breckon Bronner does whatever is neccessairy for the Lady Monarch' success.

"My mom is probably the most supportive mom I have ever know," Said Bronner. "She would supports me in anything I do as long as I get good grades."

The sports broadcasting major would have a real taste of what she plans to do in future when she interns for the Fox Sports West this summer.

" I want to be a sports broadcaster for some kind of sports channel," said Bronner. "This is the fourth time I am changing my major and the is why I am doing the internship so I can know more about it."

While Bronner graduate from high school with honors and hold a 3.0 GPA during her first year at Valley while taking five classes, she didn't have it easy. Bronner is the first person in the family to graduate from high school.

"She is an intelligent young lady, hopefully here grades would reflect that," said Frankie.

"Nobody thought I would graduate from high school," said Bronner. "But I proved them wrong when I graduated high school with honors and came to college."

Bronner add that her mom was the only person who believed in her and supported what ever she decided to do in her as long as she did good at school.

"My main concern was her academic first and then softball," said Bronner's mother. "A long as she take care of herself, I would support her."

Bronner's mother added, she made Bronner to make her own decisions since she was young so she could take the responsibility of her actions and decisions.



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LACCD has launched a new program to create hundreds of new *Paid Internship Positions*

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For more information and to obtain an application please visit:
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Or visit our website at:
www.laccd.edu/student_information/e7_internships
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Loan Consolidation Benefits College Graduates

Recent grads must act before July 1 to secure historically low interest rates

If you're like most students, chances are you'll be leaving school with thousands of dollars in student loan debt. Although making monthly student loan payments while starting out on your own can be difficult, consolidation can help.

Consolidation is one of the smartest ways for college graduates to manage student loan debt - but it is critical to act quickly. Time is running out to lock in one of the lowest interest rates in history. Rates are likely to rise on July 1 - only three months from now.

The Federal Consolidation Loan Program allows graduates (or parents with PLUS loans) to combine all eligible federal student loans into a single new loan. This new consolidated loan has a fixed interest rate and extended repayment terms that can significantly lower monthly payments. Congress established the Federal Loan Consolidation Program so graduates can take advantage of one low, fixed rate and take more time to pay back their loans. This means that cash-strapped graduates with comparably low entry-level salaries can take smaller chunks out of their paychecks for loan payments - and have more money left over to pay rent and other necessary bills.

Additionally, graduates who consolidate within the first six months after graduation - before their loans enter repayment - can reduce their interest rate by up to an additional 0.6 percent[1]. Although a 0.6 percent decrease may seem small, it can potentially save thousands of dollars in interest over time.

This year, there's even more reason for graduates to act quickly. Over the past several years, rates have fallen to historic lows. That's about to change, however, as this year's rates are expected to rise by two percentage points or more. **It is important to take immediate action before federal student loan interest rates are adjusted on July 1.**

The Congressional Budget Office projects that student loan rates for the 2005-2006 school year rate will jump by at least two percentage points, to about 5.5 percent, and will continue to grow for the foreseeable future*. This potential increase would be reflected in both Stafford and PLUS loan rates.

Graduates who consolidate before these new, higher rates take effect on July 1 can avoid the rate increase and save thousands by consolidating today and locking in unprecedented low interest rates for the life of their loan.

"According to the Congressional Budget Office, federal student loan interest rates are projected to rise this July and each July thereafter in the near future," Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy wrote in a Bentley College Vanguard editorial March 10. "According to the Congressional Research Service, the fixed interest rate benefit today is worth over $5,000 for the typical, new student borrower over the life of his or her college debt."

*For more information, call a loan consultant at **1-866-311-8076** or visit **www.lavalleystar.com/studentloan** to see if you qualify for these savings.*

While visiting the paper online, be sure to sign up for the email edition. It's the best way to stay informed beyond graduation, and it's free.

Consolidation Benefits
• Lower monthly payments. Extended repayment terms can cut your monthly student loan payments in half and help you make ends meet. You can use the extra money for necessities like housing, transportation or credit card debt.
• Fixed Interest Rate. Your existing student loans have a variable rate that could rise over time. By consolidating, you'll lock in a fixed interest rate for the life of your loan, saving you money by giving you immunity from any future rate increases.
• One Convenient Payment. You'll have only one student loan payment to make each month to one lender.
• Borrower Benefits[2]. You may be able to lower your fixed interest rate by up to an additional 1.25 percent by making your payments electronically and on-time.

Act Quickly - Two Reasons
If you are about to graduate (or have recently graduated), you should consolidate before your loans enter repayment. If you do so, you can receive an additional 0.06 percent rate reduction. Also, loan interest rates are expected to rise on July 1. Apply early to ensure you lock in today's historically low rates before they increase in July.

It's Free
It costs nothing to consolidate - there are no fees, no credit checks and no prepayment penalties.

Are You About to Graduate?
Act now by registering with the Student Loan Consolidation Program (SLCP). SLCP will provide you with additional information about consolidation and will contact you after graduation to remind you to apply early. SLCP will make sure you don't have to worry about missing out on the benefits of consolidation. It's free and there's no obligation.

* Stephen Burd, "Combatants Alter Tactics in Fight Over Student Loan Consolidation," The Chronicle of Higher Education, April 1, 2005.
1 In order to receive grace rates, your application must be received prior to the first grace end date on the loans being consolidated
2 Lender(s) and servicer(s) reserve the right to modify, extend or discontinue this program at any time without notice. Changes to this program, if any, will not affect loans that previously qualified for these or any other benefits if held by a CFS lender. All loan rate reductions and other borrower benefits terminate upon either a loan default or failure to continue to meet a borrower benefit qualification. Please call for details on our current benefit offering(s).

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GALLERY



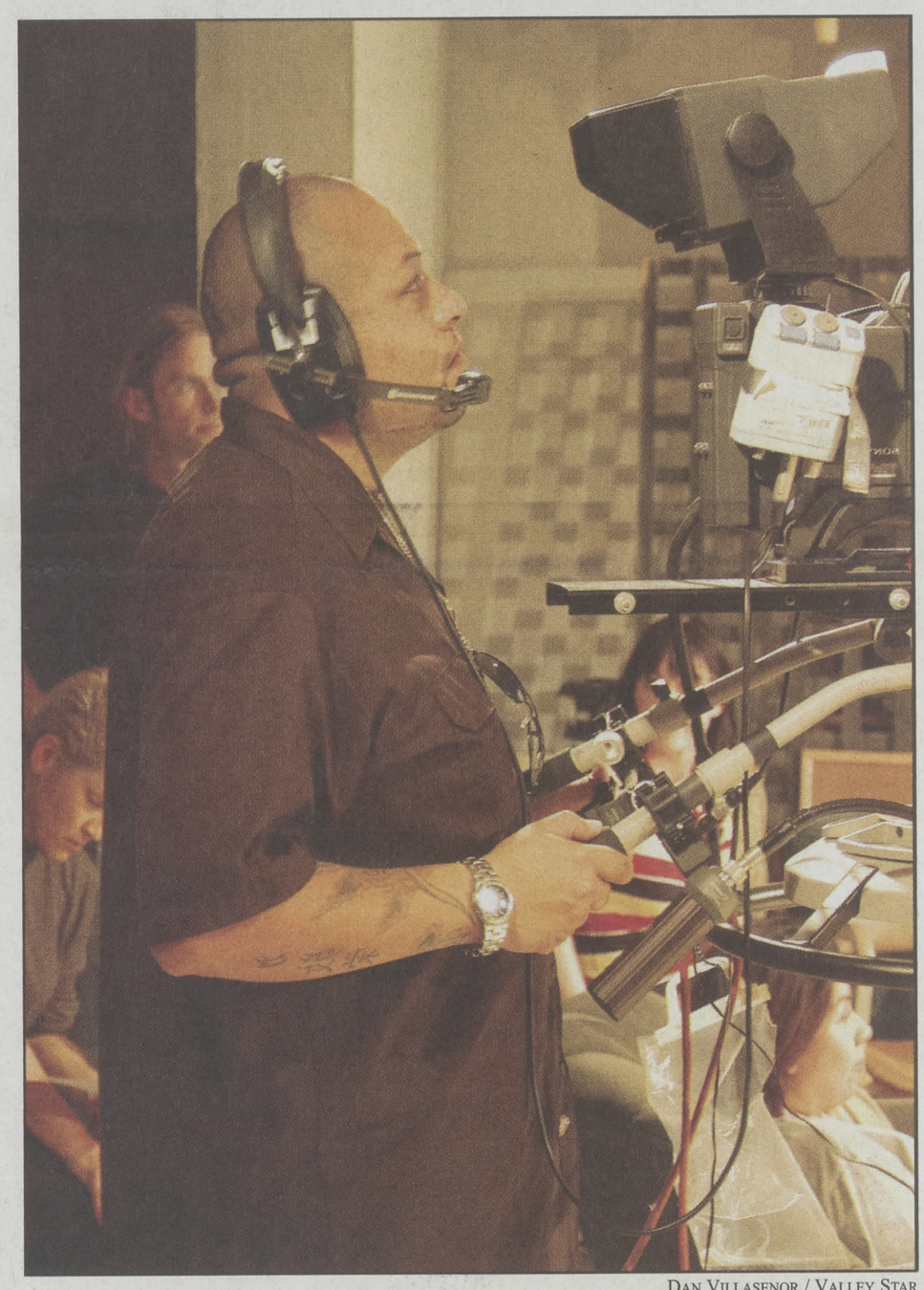
DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR

I'M NOT A MEAN GIRL BUT I PLAY ONE ON TV - Ashley Boehlefeld reherses a scene in acting class from the blockbuster hit "Mean Girls" with fellow classmate Melies Kish.



DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR

BALLEW IN THE FACE - Valley Professor and actor Bob Ballew shares his expertise with Sean Schwartz and Alex Bowerman in his acting and directing class.



DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR

BOTH SIDES NOW - Students like Victor Flores come to polish their acting skills but they may also learn to work camera, stage manage, and direct as part of their broadcasting curriculum.



DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR

TEAM WORK - The people behind the camera are as important as the people in front of it. Ararad Mardonyan, Zamorah Figueroa and Alin Cibian are always there to work sound, tape, and lighting for broadcasting 5, 45 and 28.

Photos, Text and Layout by Daniel Villasenor

Following The Footsteps Of The Famous

Students hoping to become the next Jennifer Aniston or Kiefer Sutherland, flock to the Broadcasting Television Deparment at Valley College.

Professors Betty and Bob Ballew, both experienced actors, provide students with more than just acting tips and camera tricks: they make students feel right at home.

"We are all like a big family" says 19-year-old Nare Mkrtchyan.

"Bob and Betty have been nothing but a great support, even if acting isn't what I want to do," said Valley Star sportswriter Sam Hahn. Hahn said he hoped the class would help him be comfortable in front of the camera for a possible career in sportcasting.

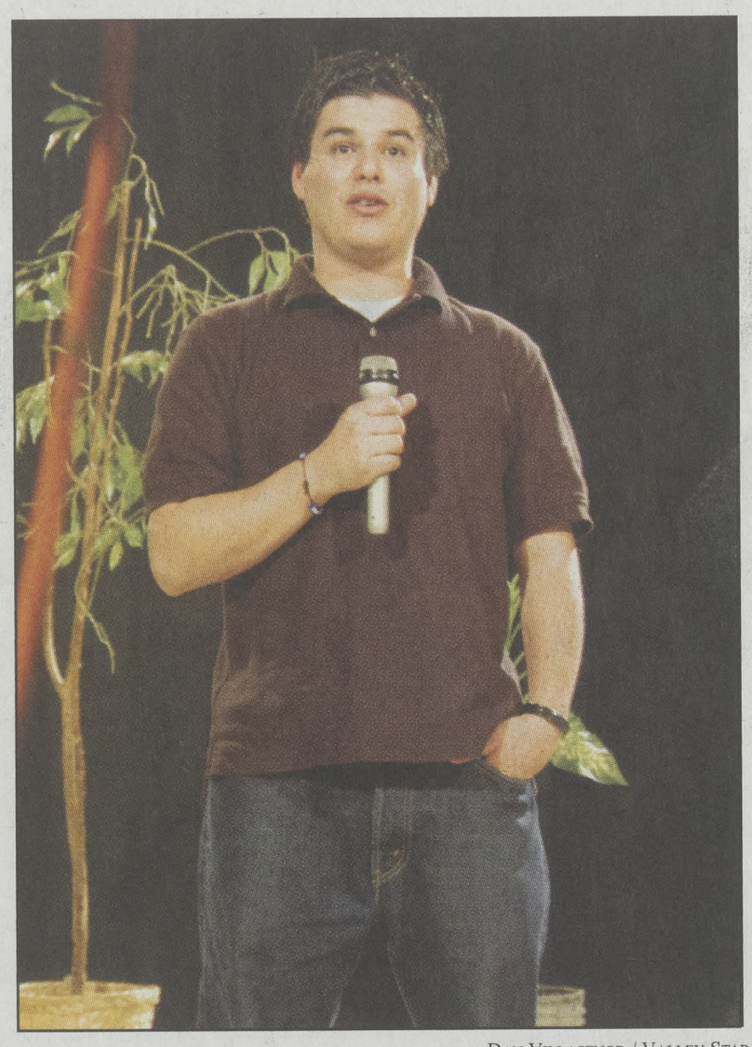
Broadcasting 5 covers beginning acting, while 45 covers advanced acting and directing. Broadcasting 28 covers television announcing.

Many students come back for "more Ballew."

"This is my third semester taking this class and I'll keep on coming until I die," said ABC-7 intern Victor Flores.

Rising star Ashley Boehlefeld says, "Both broadcasting 5 and 28 have really prepared me to go out on auditions ... I couldn't have done it without them." Boehlefeld has had lead roles in several country music videos by artists such as Toby Keith.

Apart from acting, students are taught to read from the teleprompter, write news bulletins, improve their diction and learn about how the business works.



DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR

THE LENS DOESN'T HECKLE - At first students are nervous in front of the camera, but the television announcing class helps develop self-confidence. Juan Carlos Franco finds the camera more forgiving than a crowd of drunks at a comedy club.